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Winston, N. C.

N. C., Feb. 10, 1886.

Salutatory.

A properly conducted weekly Journal devoted to the agricultura and other industrial interests of our people, is a public necessity. Encouraged by the opportunity presented, and by gratifying indications of a generous support in the indertaking from all sections of our state. A assume the task and will levote to this, my chosen life-work, Il the energy and fidelity of which am capable.

The PROGRESSIVE FARMER will be the broadest sense of the word, a ORTH CAROLINA paper. Serving no master, ruled by no faction, circumscribed by no selfish or narow policy, its aim will be to foster nd promote the best interests o he whole people of the State:

It will be true to the instincts, tra tions and history of the Angloxo race. On all matters relating pecially to the great interests it epresents, it will speak with no unbertain voice, but will fearlessly the right defend, and impartially the wrong condemn.

Appreciating most gratefully the kindly regard so generously exressed by my brethren of the State Press, I hope to prove myself worthy of it, in a faithful effort to redeem the pledge, that they shall have the earnest support and co-opration of the Progressive Farmer all things, to advance the interests of our noble and beloved tate.

Winston is my home. It has re ceived me, not as "a stranger with in its gates," but with that cordiality or which it is distinguished, and which evokes in grateful response he touching language of Ruth to Yaomi. Becoming thus thoroughly dentified with the good people of he beautiful and prosperous "Twin-Cities" in all their various interests ind through them with the subtantial and progressive people of the Ledmont Slopes, they will command my humble but free contribuion, to the development of those lements of influence and power, vith which, under the Providence f God, they have been so abundantly

> iculture. Il to the no time in the the Department has this

T. Polk.

amine the books, records, vouchers, etc., which he did and gave the results of his investigations, through his columns. We will do the Chronicle the justice to say, that its statements were generally accepted as at least fair, dispassionate and impartial. But it is not our purpose at present, to comment on the revelations made by the Chronicle, as to the details of expenditures and the general management of the various sub-departments of the institution. Whatever the manner in which the money has been expended, whether properly or improperly-whether wisely and economically, or wastefully and extravagantly—the officers of the various sub-departments cannot, under the rules and regulations of the Department, be held responsible for it. The money derived from a tax on fertilizers is deposited with the State Treasurer, who is ex officio Treasurer of the Department and not one dollar of it can be drawn by any of the officers, except by the authority or sanction of the Board. Again, if this rule of the Board did not exist, these officers are protected to the fullest extent against the charge of extravagance by a report from the Finance Committee of the Board, made at its last quarterly meeting. That Committee examined the same papers, vouchers, etc., which the Chronicle did. The Chronicle gives the items and characterizes many of them as extravagant and wasteful. The Committee does not give the items-does not deny their correctness as stated in the Chronicle, but haps an insignificant exception, were "proper," "wise" and "judicious." So, that the officers referred to are relieved, as far as the assumption of responsibility by the Board can relieve them. And now, it is purely a question of judgment between the people and the Board as to whether these expenditures were "wise" and proper." Whatever The Progress-IVE FARMER may say now or hereafter, shall be prompted by no disposition to grumble, nor in the spirit of carping criticism, but it will be free, frank and fearless in the discharge of its high duty to the farmers of the State: This Department eration of the body. Every section belongs to the agriculturists of the State. It was originated and brought into being by them. It was established chiefly for their benefit and they must be made to realize that their wishes, their views and their interests are respected in its conduct annual meeting (the only one for and management, or there will be the year) the week following. They dissatisfaction. It has been repeat- are now fresh from the people and edly asserted that the farmers alone | are thoroughly informed as to the are taxed to support it. Whether it necessities, etc., of each and every be true or not, they assumed the section and interest. They now have chances when they came to the Legislature and asked that the Depart- intelligent of all classes interested in ment be established, and it is there- the improvement and development fore their own business. If it be of the State. Having all this before true, so much the stronger is their them they will be enabled to map claim that it shall be so conducted out intelligently the work to be peras to best subserve their interest. If formed by the various officers of the it be not true, they have the same | Department for the year. They legal and moral right to this claim, should present an estimate of the because the law has set apart the amount necessary to run the Departmoney for their benefit. Certain it ment to the Legislature. The Legis, that no other class of our people islature should limit the expendi are taxed to support it. They, above tures. The Commissioner should be all others are interested in the man- appointed by the Legislature or ner of its expenditure, and have not | elected by the people and be held only the right to know how it is ex- responsible for the performanc of the pended, but to direct how it shall be work imposed on the Department. done. For the information of those The Board should be so constituted who may not have had access to the as to represent every section and all official reports, we quote from them | the leading industries or interests of

in presenting the following: mittee of the Board and submitted terests, should be eligible as a memto the Legislature January 23, 1885, ber of the Board. Let there be but shows; that the receipts from Jan'v 1883 to Oct. 30, 1884, including a balance on hand Dec. 1st, 1883, were an equal and fair representation to \$100,189.49. Disbursements from every section of the State. Let the Dec. 1st, 1882, to Nov. 30, 1885, \$50,- Governor be ex officio Chairman of 431.39—from Dec. 1st, 1883, to Nov. | the Board. 30th, 1884, \$49,758.09. In the Monthly Bulletin, Jan'y, 1886, issued by the Board, we find the following: Total receipts for year ending Nov. 30th, 1885, \$41,500-total disbursements, the annual meeting of the intelligent \$40,628. The Bulletin promises to "print a full account of the expenditures of the Department for 1885" in its next issue. The Bulletin says:

· " If the people of the State were more familiar with the law which established the Department of Agriculture, and with the reports of its finances, it might pre-vent much misconstruction. * * * It will be the aim of the Bulletin to give the lest information both as to the amounts the disbursements of the Department the purposes for which those dis-ments are made."

may be permitted to suggestible failure to give this haform hat to the people is the prime caus tisfaction. The Board should this money as theirs and they therefore watch it most earnestly. They do not regard it in the same light as they do other money derived from

other sources. Let the Department be brought into closer and more intimate relations with the people. Let them see more of its workings and feel directly more of its benefits. Let them see the people and the government is more practical results-let them feel | permitted to aid in sustaining them. in short, that it is their Department | Hence, the seeming or real conflicts and that they are deriving benefit | constantly arising between the subfrom it aud their murmurings will ject and State, as to the limits of the be changed into praise. It has been | prerogatives of each in their efforts suggested and even urged that the to promote education. But in the Department should be abolished. If rapid development of progress in all tions. We thin with all due rea minister and the officers of a church its departments we shall soon reach spect, that it was mistake for either should so act as to displease the the point when subject and State, it members, should the church disband? seems to us, must banish all dif-If a Governor should so conduct ferences and unite harmoniously and himself as to displease the people, in hearty co-operation. We refer to should the office of Governor be that department of education which abolished? This would be revolu- involves the special and practical traintion and not reformation. The Pro- ing of the children of the masses, for the GRESSIVE FARMER believes now, as respective vocations in life which they heretofore, that a Department of Ag- are to fill. riculture, properly conducted, would be of incalculable good to our people and grand work of our colleges and and State. North Carolina cannot afford to turn back in the onward but we believe they could be immarch of progress. The farmers cannot afford to give up an institution which can be of such great value to them. The great importance of the various subjects submitted under the law, to the charge of the Department | lished-to-wit : The education of should enlist the deepest interest and | those who are able to avail themengage the best service of all patriotic men. This can be dono-this repeat, that in our judgment even will be done, if we heed the lessons the Committee does say, that the of experience and subject the manvouchers are all found to be correct agement of the Department to the We believe that the college, where and that the expenditures, with per- intelligent, progressive, practical men | the boy finds the whole influence of one insignificant little school for the who are identified with the various industries of the State.

detailed report of their work for the year. Let these reports be discussed. Let there be the fullest and freest interchange of thought on any and all subjects presented for the considinterests would be represented and they are prepared and trained. especially those coming within the limit of the law. Let the Board sit with the body and participate in its proceedings. Let the Board hold its suggestions and views from the most the State. None but practical men. The report of the Finance Com- identified with one or more of these inone member from each Congressional District on the Board, thus giving

This is very similar to the system adopted in Pennsylvania and other States, and is found to work admirably, the most valuable feature being and more progressive men of all sections, to exchange and present views on the leading industries of the State. Such a plan, we believe, would make the Department one of the most popular, as well as one of the most useful institutions in the State, because it would then be under the direct charge and management of the people whose interests it was designed to subserve and who would know how to conduct it.

Industrial or Practical Education—The Great Need of the Times—How it is Regarded in North Carolina. Just to what extent the State should have control of the education of the subject is yet a debatable ques

European governments, which exercise absolute supervision of the training of their youth, ours can only encourage such systems and methods as to our liberty-loving people may seem in consonance with the spirit of our free institutions. The systems are presented and dictated by

We would not disparage the great other higher institutions of learning, proved and made more useful if a more practical cast could be engrafted upon them. In the main, they are adapted to and meet the demands for which they were estabselves of these advantages. But we their systems could be made of much greater advantage to their students. association and the curriculum, opposed to the farm, or to the work-Let a convention be held in the shop, or the factory, as desirable obcity of Raleigh on the first Monday jects for an educated mind, that, to in December of each year, to con- say the least of it, is susceptible of tinue for a week, to be composed of improvement. In ante-bellum times representative farmers and others our systems of education in the engaged in the various branches of South looked chiefly to the developagriculture, of manufacturers and of ment of only one department of huall classes of our people. Let the man effort—the renown of profesofficers of the Department make a sional achievement or conquest on the forum. But the demands of the times, under our charged condition, call loudly for a new departure. They are for educated farmers, educated mechanics and educated artisans, whose callings shall be dignified of the State and all her chief inter- by the very systems under which

This brings us to consider

HOW THIS SUBJECT IS REGARDED IN NORTH CAROLINA.

We have but voiced the sentiments and views of a very large majority of the thinking men of our State on the situation, so far as relates to our colleges, and the conviction is growing and fastening itself upon their minds that a new departure is demanded. This found expression in the action of some of our patriotic citizens during the last session of our Legislature, when they presented a memorial for the establishment of an industrial school. In compliance therewith, an Act was passed authorizing its establishment on certain conditions. The Act provided that the Board of Agriculture should receive proposals or bids from the towns and cities of the State desiring to have the school—to this was to be added \$5,000 from the fund of the Agricultural Department. Bids were made by Kinston and Raleigh and Charlotte. The city of Charlotte offered \$5,000 and a site; Raleigh, \$5,000, a site and the old Exposition building, estimated to be worth \$3,000 ts \$5,000, the use of twenty acres of ground and the free use of 'convicts to tear down and remove the Exposition building, and Kinston offered \$10,000. The acceptance or rejection of bids was left to the discretion of the Board. The bid made by Raleigh particularly, was urged by leading citizens with riculture and Mehanic Arts" at the much earnestness and zeal, but the Board decided, after much discus- joy the income from the bonds into the Board has drawn upon that body | reported to be in these colleges and press of the State, to which Dr. K. P. Battle, president of our University, replies, and who appears to have labored zealously in the meet-

While it is not our purpose to enter into this discussion now, yet we must be permitted to say that the "fine-spun theories" and hair-splitting technicalities upon which the Board seems to have rested the case and as advanced by Dr. Battle, will not be sufficient to satisfy the public as to the course taken. Had the Board acted differently it would, at least, have been a beginning in the

understand that the people regard tion in the free-thinking American right direction, be, after all, it may mind. Unlike many of the older "prove a blessing a disguise," as we believe it will a use, thought and study and infuse ito the public mind larger and broid views on the subject which will ulimately give us a system of induttal schools through which every city town and village in the State mar have these schools. We think it was a mistake to ask the Legislature b establish a single school, especial since we see that it would drag r perish under the provisions mad for it. We think it was a mistake place its destiny in the hands of a Board under such embarrassing and precarious condiof the places much to have made such liberal prodisitions for a school to be thus landered, for, with the surroundings, e candidly confess we could hope or little more than failure. In ou judgment, the people should ask he Legislature for a system of practial technical training, under wich any town, with much less morey than the sums offered, can have good schools, where the boys and girls of farmers and mechanics and others, unable to send their chidren to high graded and expensive schools and colleges, may be taught how to make an honest living. Give as a system-not a single little scool with such niggardly support that a must surely die. We confess to a degree of shame and mortification when we saw the Legislature of his great State-this agricultural State-three-fourths of whose population are of that class, putting "up to the highest bidder' education of their children. But, after all, this want of appreciation of this grand object is not so surprising, sind we heard that a gentleman in high position, very innocently inquired "what class of convicts was it proposed, should work in the schools

But we have referred more particularly to this effort to establish a school as showing that the waters are beginning to mive. Innovations on old systems of flucation will surely come, the most important of which will be one hat gives to the masses an ornantiaty com mensurate with their means to edd cate their hildren to do something and how to do it.

Apropos to this subject, we offer a few authentic facts to how what some of our sister States are doing in this direction. We premise stating that by an act of the Co gress of the United States, approve July 2, 1882, there was given to ea of the States for educational pr poses an amount of lad equal quantity to 30,000 ages for each Senator and Representative to whi said States were entitled under t apportionment of 180, making grant covering 9,600,000 acres. T is known as the "Agreultural lege bill." as it was enressly stat in the act, the proceeds of land scrip should be a propriated the establishment all support Agricultural Colleges March, 18 the Legislature of Georgia pass an act accepting the grant un the conditions specified, and Governor was authorzed the rece the scrip and sell 1. He realis \$240,000 for it an invested it Georgia State bond bearing 8 cent, interest. e bonds w turned over to the tate University at Athens, and the Board of Ti tees have established branch A cultural Colleges, & follows: " North Georgia Igricultural lege," at Dahlonga; "The Mi Georgia Agricultural College,' Milledgeville; "The South Geor Agricultural College," at Thon ville, and "The State College of I University. These four college sion, to postpone the matter indef. which the land scrip was converted, initely. This action on the part of to-wit: about \$20,000, There were sharp comment from a portion of the departments in 1884, 1.097 students. Virginia sold her land scrip, and with the proceeds bought \$560,168 of Virginia State stock, on the face amount of which, the State has been

ing for the course taken by the regularly paying full interest at 6 Board. This was apportioned been the Agricultural and Mechanica College at Blacksburg and The pton Kormal and Igricultural tute at Heapton, the former whites and the latterfor the colrace. Two-thirds of the an income from this feed, amount to \$20,638.72 goes to Blacksburg ege and one-third \$10,310.80